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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and Circular 1/58 of the Ministry of Health.

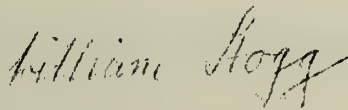
I am very glad to report that the incidence of acute infectious disease during the year was low, but prevalence of measles occurred in the Rural District. There was very little change in the number of births and deaths.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. E.E. Jordan, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

3rd October, 1958.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. H.A.Lett, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Southend,
Ledbury.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	49,867
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.57)	...	2,460
Rateable Value	...	£55,294
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£226.12.3.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	8,670

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (Crude)	...	13.6
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	...	15.2
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births (live and still)	...	24.8
Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (Crude)	...	11.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	...	10.2
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.12
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.92

Deaths from Maternal Causes

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total Births</u>
Heading No.30 Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	42.4
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	44.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a wide valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The District is entirely agricultural in character.

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 8670, which is a small increase on the figure for the previous year (8660). This population was accommodated in 2460 dwellings in 22 parishes comprising the Rural District. The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.52 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.05. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 22.

Births

The total number of live births for the year is 118 (63 male and 55 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 13.6. The adjusted live birth rate is 15.2 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for the year 1957 for England and Wales is 16.1 per 1000 population. The local figures show a fall in the number of births compared with the figures for 1955 and 1956.

The number of illegitimate live births is 5 (2 male and 3 female). Illegitimate live births formed 4.2% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 0.58 per 1000 estimated population.

Stillbirths

Three stillbirths were registered during the year, which gave a still-birth rate of 24.8 per 1000 total births. In the previous year there were no stillbirths.

Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District, after deducting the deaths of non-residents occurring within the District, and adding the deaths of residents occurring outside the District, is 96 (54 male and 42 female). The crude death rate is 11.1 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The number of deaths in 1956 was 94.

The adjusted death rate is 10.2 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.5 per 1000 population.

The most frequent cause of death was heart disease (headings Nos.18, 19 and 20) - 24 deaths, and secondly apo plexy (heading No.17) which accounted for 18 deaths.

Tuberculosis

One death was caused by respiratory tuberculosis, giving a corrected local tuberculosis death rate of 0.106 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1957 from all forms of tuberculosis is 0.107 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex, and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Female.	Persons	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
1.	Tuberculosis	1	-	1	0.106
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	2	3	0.318
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	0.212
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.106
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	3	8	0.849
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	9	9	18	1.910
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	7	2	9	0.955
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	2	2	0.212
20.	Other heart disease.	8	5	13	1.379
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	4	6	0.637
22.	Influenza.	-	2	2	0.212
23.	Pneumonia.	1	4	5	0.531
24.	Bronchitis.	3	1	4	0.424
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1	0.106
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.106
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1	1	0.106
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	7	6	13	1.379
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3	0.318
34.	All other accidents.	3	-	3	0.318
All Causes		54	42	96	10.184

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease

Pneumonia, the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death, caused 5 deaths (1 male and 4 female); giving a corrected local pneumonia death rate of 0.53 per 1000 estimated population. In 1956 8 deaths were attributed to pneumonia.

Infant Mortality

Five deaths of infants under the age of one year occurred; the infant mortality rate was therefore 42.4 per 1000 live births. This rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 23.0 per 1000 live births. In 1956 6 babies under the age of one year died.

Neo-Natal Mortality

Four of these babies were under the age of 4 weeks at death. The Rural District neonatal mortality rate for the year was therefore 33.9 per 1000 live births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for examination of clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Faeces		12
C.S. Fluid.	...	1
Milk (Biological)	...	10
Milk (Methylene Blue Test)	...	69
Milk (Phosphatase Test)	...	44
Water (Bacteriological)	...	69

In addition, 20 samples of effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the Rural District, but the needs of the District are met by facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

Accommodation for treatment of infectious disease is provided at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary Committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic, held at the Church Room, Ledbury, is available to inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

No burials were carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Three investigations were made under this section during the year. In all cases, no formal action was necessary.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAGeology

The western boundary of the Rural District is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills at Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malvern Hills is complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rocks seem to pre-dominate. The Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System prevails between the hills in the east and west. Whilst some springs occur in the Malvern Hills, the area is not well supplied with natural sources of water.

Water Supplies

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts and a small piped supply at Woolhope.

The quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants shows considerable variation according to the nature of the supply. The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination was 63, and of these 25 showed the water not to be of good potable quality.

The water mains of the Malvern District Council supply part of the parishes of Colwall and Mathon, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply part of the parishes of Eastnor, Ledbury Rural and Wellington Heath. These supplies are the only chlorinated supplies in the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish.

There are small privately owned piped schemes in operation in Eastnor (51 dwellings), Much Marcle (36 dwellings) and Tarrington (24 dwellings). In the parish of Wellington Heath 5 dwellings are supplied by standpipe, and 7 are similarly supplied in Ledbury Rural parish.

The number of dwellings supplied from public water mains was:-

Colwall	...	510
Eastnor	...	26
Ledbury Rural	...	44
Wellington Heath	...	95

Drainage and Sewerage

The parish of Colwall is provided with a system of public sewers and sewage disposal works.

Sixteen samples of effluent were sent for chemical examination - five failed to comply with the Royal Commission standards for such effluents. Four samples of trade effluent were sent for examination.

There is a short length of public sewer in Bosbury parish which receives the drainage of a number of dwellings.

The number of drain tests carried out by the Public Health Inspectors was 82. The number of new drains provided was 62, and of these 48 were in connection with dwelling houses. No extensions to public sewers were carried out during the year.

Rivers and Streams

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and the Cradley Brook. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area is a tributary of the river Severn. The Leadon shows evidence of pollution at times.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that over one third of the dwelling houses in the Rural District are provided with water closets; about half use pail closets and the remainder use privies. In Colwall parish with an adequate piped water supply, the proportion of water closets in use is about 91%.

Every effort to secure closet conversion is made, and during the year 4 privies were converted to water closets, 17 pail closets were converted to water closets and 1 privy was converted to a pail closet. In addition, 17 new water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a regular collection of domestic refuse - a weekly collection in part of Colwall and fortnightly elsewhere in the Rural District. A motor vehicle is used and disposal is by tipping. About 80% of occupied dwellings receive the benefit of this service.

The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse, or the cleansing or emptying of cesspools and privies, other than those on its own property. The Council does not carry out street cleansing.

There are no public washhouses or baths situated within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	10
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	64
Bakehouses	...	3
Camping Sites	...	3
Caravans	...	9
Dairies	...	6
Drainage	...	89
Drain Tests	...	82
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	1
Filthy and Verminous Persons	...	1
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	11
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	25
Food Poisoning	...	1
Food Premises	...	17
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	83
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	152
Housing (Other)	...	240
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	4
Ice Cream Registered Premises	...	4
Infectious Disease	...	16

Inspections (continued)

Petroleum Stores	...	90
Diseases of Animals Acts (Anthrax Order 1938)	...	3
Schools	...	1
Sewage Disposal Works	...	92
Sewers	...	17
Sanitary Conveniences	...	9
Smoke Observations	...	4
Slaughterhouses	...	8
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	4
Unsound Food	...	25
Water Supply	...	150
Water Courses	...	7
Work Places	...	11

Notices Issued

Informal	...	36
Statutory	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	1
Domestic Baths provided	...	31
Drains reconstructed	...	1
New drains provided	...	48
Defective Floors repaired	...	13
Defective roofs repaired	...	7
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	8
Defective brickwork repaired	...	7
Defective Coppers remedied	...	2
Disinfections after infectious disease...	...	7
Defective windows repaired	...	4
Defective chimneys repaired	...	8
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	7
Dairies reconstructed	...	4
New Gullies provided	...	40
Old drains sealed	...	1
Paving repaired	...	7
Privies converted to W.C.s	...	4
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	7
New sinks provided	...	15
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	24
Moveable Dwellings removed	...	1
New Urinals provided	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	4
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	9
Water supplies	...	9
Miscellaneous Defects remedied	...	1

Swimming Baths and Pools

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. All are equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

Three samples of swimming pool water submitted for bacteriological examination were found to be satisfactory.

Hop and Fruit Pickers' Quarters

The cultivation of hops is an important aspect of agriculture in the District. It is customary for hop pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September. The use of machinery for stripping is increasing, and was used by 37 growers. Some hop pickers provide their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent and for others accommodation is provided by growers.

These lodgings are controlled by the Rural District Council's Byelaws. Lodgings were provided on 32 different premises. The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year.

The number of inspections of hop pickers' quarter made under the Byelaws was 83.

Camping Sites. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under this section. Camping within the area is limited and it presents no major public health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer months by members of bodies exempt under subsection 6 of this section. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not to exceed 100.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses within the Rural District were found to be infested with bed bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Shops and Offices

No formal action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with these premises.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

At the end of the year there were four factories without mechanical power, and twentyfour with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

In addition, there were 11 premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1957, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspect-ions.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	4	11	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	24	25	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	11	11	-	-
Total	39	47	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

No defects were found to be present during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a Pest Officer jointly with the Hereford Rural District Council and the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

	<u>Premises inspect- ed.</u>	<u>Total Infest- ations.</u>	<u>Rats</u>		<u>Mice.</u>	<u>No. of properties treated.</u>	<u>Stat- utory Notices.</u>
			<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>			
Local Authorities' Properties.	19	17	-	17	-	17	-
Dwelling Houses	72	42	-	38	4	-	-
Agricultural Properties	67	39	-	39	-	-	-
All other (including business) Premises	10	7	-	5	2	-	-
Total	168	105	-	99	6	17	-

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew Dwellings

No Council houses were completed or under construction during the year. Private persons completed 12 dwellings, and a further 7 were under construction at the end of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	152
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	48
3. Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to in previous sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	36

Houses demolished or closed during the year

1. Housing Act, 1957		
(a) Demolished as a result of informal or formal procedure under Section 17(1).	...	3
(b) Houses closed under sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1).	...	Nil

Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
1.(a) After informal action by Local Authority.	15	Nil
(b) After formal notice under Public Health Acts.	Nil	Nil
(c) After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957.	Nil	Nil
(d) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957.	Nil	Nil

Housing Act 1957 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	...	10
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	1
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	...	Nil
(d) Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by the Local Authority for abatement	...	Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949

Section 20 (a)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings	...	Nil
(b)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings	...	17

Overcrowding - Housing Act 1957 - Part IV

At the beginning of the year 9 dwellings were known to be overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1957. During the year one new case was found.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem but no progress has been made in securing abatement.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

On the 1st October, 1956, the Rural District became a specified area and only tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk may be sold by retail within the District.

At the end of the year 12 distributors were registered with the Council. There are no plants for pasteurising milk or factories for processing of milk within the area. Ten licences were granted by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk and 9 for the sale of pasteurised milk. One licence was issued for the sale of sterilised milk. The number of dairy inspections made was six. Ten samples of milk were sent for biological examination and all were satisfactory.

Twentyfive samples of tuberculin tested milk were sent for examination and all but 2 complied with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. Of 22 samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination, 3 were found not to comply with the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949. All of these unsatisfactory samples were obtained from one distributor. As regards tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk, all 28 samples submitted complied with both the pasteurised and raw milk Regulations.

The consumption of milk was not suspected as causing disease in the population at any time during the year.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, Sections 16 and 17

Ice Cream

Sixteen premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one registered for the manufacture of ice cream. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. The number of inspections made during the year was 4. The manufacturer registered uses a cold mix.

There are 15 other premises registered with the Council under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Four of these are concerned with the manufacture of meat products.

The number of inspections of premises made during the year was 17, and conditions at all premises were found to be satisfactory.

Water Cress

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress appears to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Slaughterhouses

Two slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council.

One slaughterman's licence was issued by the Council during the year under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954, for the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.			Horses.
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.		
Number killed (if known)	56	-	2	307	55	-	
Number inspected	55	-	2	299	55	-	
<u>All diseases</u> <u>except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>& Cysticerci</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	4	7	-	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.0	-	-	1.7	12.7	-	
<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.6	-	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Unsound Food

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
19 Tins	Whole Chicken	Blown tins.
1 tin	Pears	" "
7 tins	Tongue	" "
11 tins	Apricots	" "
3 tins	Pork Luncheon Meat	" "
2 tins	Pineapple pieces	" "
5 tins	Beans	" "
11 tins	Peaches	Damaged Tins.
6 tins	Whole Chicken	" "
3 tins	Pineapple Pulp	" "
1 tin	Ham	Decomposition.
1 part	Ox liver	Cirrhosis.
2	Sheep livers	"
1	Pig liver	"
1 part	Sheep liver	"
2	Pig lungs	Pneumonia.
3	Ox livers	Abscess.
2	Pig heads	Tuberculosis.
1	Pig heart	Pericarditis.
1 Carcase	Mutton	Pyrexia.
1	Ox liver	Distomatosis.
3	Legs of Pork	Trauma.
1	Sheep liver	Cysts.

As a result of a special examination of 1902 tins (28 lbs. each) of apricot pulp 564 tins were found to be unfit for human consumption due to damage and decomposition.

All unsound food is dealt with by burying or burning at the refuse tip.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food

No contravention of these Byelaws was found at any time during the year. There are no food markets held within the Rural District, but the Byelaws have secured improvement in the handling and wrapping of food.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of notifications of infectious disease received was 112 as compared with 109 in the previous year. Almost all (106) of these were received in the first half of the year, the first quarter being the period of greatest incidence. The notification rate is 12.9 notifications per 1000 estimated population.

<u>Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter</u>					
<u>Disease</u>	<u>1st Quarter.</u>	<u>2nd Quarter.</u>	<u>3rd Quarter.</u>	<u>4th Quarter.</u>	<u>Year.</u>
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	60	36	-	1	97
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	-	-	3	-	3
Whooping Cough	6	-	-	-	6
Pneumonia	3	-	-	1	4
All Diseases	70	36	3	3	112

Measles

The number of notified cases was 97, an increase of 28 on the number received in 1956. The morbidity rate is 11.2 per 1000 estimated population. After a freedom from the disease for over four months, measles appeared in February and spread very rapidly, March being the month of maximum incidence. Thereafter, the infection diminished and disappeared before the end of the second quarter. The highest incidence was recorded in the parishes of Eastnor (25), Wellington Heath (18), Ledbury Rural (16), and 5 cases occurred in the small parish of Dornington. These parishes together gave rise to 64 cases. The age group giving the greatest number of cases was the over five but under 10 years of age group. There was no significant incidence as regards sex. The number of households involved was 66, of these 43 each experienced one case and 18 each experienced 2 cases. The disease was of moderate severity and caused no deaths. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 26 instances

Whooping Cough

Only six notifications of whooping cough were received, this is 8 less than in 1956. All cases occurred within the first quarter of the year. The incidence rate is 0.69 per 1000 estimated population. All of the patients were children under 15 years of age.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Unfortunately 4 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified during 1957. The first case occurred in the first quarter and was of the paralytic form of the disease with well marked symptoms. The infection appeared to have been acquired outside the District.

No further spread of infection occurred and the second quarter was free from the disease. However, in the third quarter 3 non-paralytic cases were confirmed, one of these being a contact. Thereafter the infection disappeared from the District.

In the previous year the Rural District was entirely free from poliomyelitis. The poliomyelitis morbidity rate 0.46 per 1000 estimated population.

Pneumonia

Four cases of pneumonia were notified, three of these were received during the first quarter. Pneumonia was the only acute infectious disease attributed as a cause of death in the District during 1957, five deaths being attributed to the disease. In 1956 only one case of pneumonia was notified.

Other Diseases

In October influenza appeared in the Rural District and spread rapidly. The disease was of the "Asian" type and relatively mild. However, two deaths were attributed to the disease.

In 1957, the Rural District was free from scarlet fever, enteric fever, meningococcal infection and diphtheria.

The efficiency of notification is quite good and I take the opportunity of thanking the medical practitioners of the District for the co-operation they have given.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	45+	65+	All Ages.
Measles	1	3	1	7	9	60	11	-	2	3	-	-	97
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	4
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
All Diseases	2	3	2	7	9	65	12	1	6	4	1	-	112

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 79 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (65 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory). During the year 9 cases (8 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) were added. Of these, 7 cases (6 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) were new infections. The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 10 (6 respiratory and 4 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 68 cases remained on the Register (67 respiratory and 11 non-respiratory)

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1957

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-

One death was attributed to respiratory tuberculosis, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis for the Rural District of 0.106 per 1000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1957 is 0.107 per 1000 population for all forms of tuberculosis.

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